# Constellation Luminary

*Make the night sky glow from inside of your home.*

**Kit contains:**

- Luminary template
- Push pin
- LED tealight

**You will need:** tape or glue (optional).

MORTON GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053
Youth Info Desk: 847-929-5102 | mgpl.org

# INSTRUCTIONS

**Step 1.** Cut out your cardboard constellation luminary.

**Step 2.** Fold the luminary into a box. If you wish, you can reinforce the bottom and side flaps with glue or tape, but leave the lid loose.

**Step 3.** Use your push pin to poke holes in the constellations. This will let light shine through.

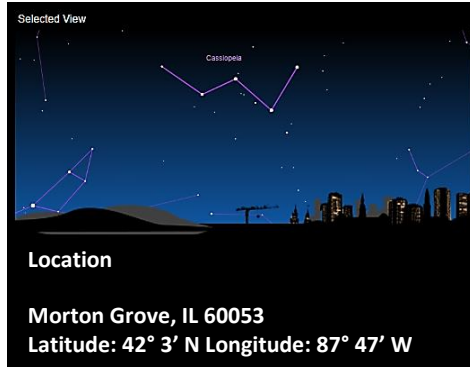
**Step 4.** Insert your tealight into the luminary, close the lid, and watch it glow.

*Luminary template is used with the permission of Red Ted Art: https://www.redtedart.com/5-constellations-kids-should-know/*

# STARGAZING OUTSIDE

When you look at the stars in the night sky, it can be difficult to spot the constellations. After all, the real stars aren't actually connected by helpful lines. Fortunately, there are tools to help. Check out the interactive sky chart from Sky & Telescope: https://skyandtelescope.org/interactive-sky-chart/.

You can input your location, date, and time. The app will show you locations of stars and constellations in YOUR night sky.



# STAR FORMATION

Stars are born within the clouds of dust and scattered throughout most galaxies. Turbulence deep within these clouds gives rise to knots with sufficient mass that the gas and dust can begin to collapse under its own gravitational attraction. As the cloud collapses, the material at the center begins to heat up. Known as a **protostar**, it is this hot core at the heart of the collapsing cloud that will one day become a star. As the cloud collapses, a dense, hot core forms and begins gathering dust and gas. Not all of this material ends up as part of a star—the remaining dust can become planets, asteroids, or comets or may remain as dust.

*(Source: https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/focus-areas/how-do-stars-form-and-evolve)*

*Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*
*I know exactly what you are.*
*Opaque ball of hot dense gas,*
*million times our planet's mass,*
*looking small because you're far*
*I know exactly what you are.* (Julia Kregenow, PhD)